

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves to right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or another application. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 13-19 and 21 are allowed. The Examiner is further thanked for the indication that claims 7, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, each of claims 7, 11 and 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of claim 1 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 11 and 12, and any claims depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 8 and 10 have been amended to depend from independent claim 7 and are now believed to be in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments and no estoppels are intended thereby. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

OFFICE ACTION

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection to claims 1-6, 8, 10 and 20 along with the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned amendments identified in the *Listing of the Claims* section and subsequently discussed in *Status of Claim* section, overcome both of these rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, it respectfully submitted that these rejections to the claims be withdrawn and the application be allowed.

CONCLUSION


No extension-of-time fee is believed due. However any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 202/861-1714.

Respectfully submitted,

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